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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

Power outage stings

Local businesses feel impact.
Page 2

Election reform considered

Changes to regional councillor elections.
Page 3

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Mist shopping



Welland's Farmers Market goers trekked through fog Saturday morning as they made their purchases and pursued items for sale.

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Outage zaps businesses

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

It was a power outage that wreaked havoc on Port Colborne businesses.

The No Frills store is one of the businesses hit hard by the blackout that struck the whole city last Tuesday.

"That's what's mind-blowing," store owner Brent Tarabalka said. "The power failure affected the whole community."

While he knows exactly how much money was lost from being unable to operate, he declined to share that number, saying only that it was substantial.

Like some other businesses, he does not have a backup generator so his store had to be shut down during the outage.

"When you operate a business that has customers inside, it's not just flipping a switch. Customers, we have to get them out of the store, we have to process their final transactions. Everything goes down."

He said there were very specific protocols in these instances to ensure both the safety of customers as well as the products.

Among the things staff did was constantly monitor temperatures on fresh and frozen foods to make sure they wouldn't

spoil. He said they were almost to their "tolerance point," but luckily didn't reach it and the store was able to avoid throwing anything away.

Dolores Fabiano, executive director for Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce, said many businesses took a hit last Tuesday.

"Unless you've got a backup generator that can kick in and provide you with your power supply, there's not much you can do," she said.

Food Basics has a backup generator, so store manager Jeff Millegours said there wasn't much concern about the food going bad. But there was a significant customer drop that day.

"It affected business quite a bit only for the fact you couldn't tell the stores were open," he said.

Other stores around Food Basics were closed during the outage, so many customers assumed his store was closed, too. Because of that, foot traffic was down and made an impact.

Lemayzz... Meats, a butcher shop downtown, was still partially operational during the outage.

Employee Kaytlin Tenke said it was still able to sell items such



Lemayzz... Meats employees Ashley Rouillard and Kaytlin Tenke peer through the meat counter window on Thursday afternoon in Port Colborne.

as Peperettes, but couldn't sell any product that needed to be weighed.

The shop was lucky enough to also not have to throw out any product because it kept doors closed to keep the cold in. But the lack of customers during that time period was enough to hurt the small busi-

ness.

The outage was ultimately caused by a failure in the transmission system, said Tiziana Baccaga Rosa, a spokesperson for HydroOne, which supplies the city with power through Canadian Niagara Power.

"Sometimes equipment just fails, but at this point everyone

has been restored."

The reason for the failure will be explored on its end, but she doesn't think there is a cause for concern with the equipment and that the incident was a one-off.

As HydroOne worked to repair the issue, Canadian Niagara Power pulled energy from a

station in Welland, but because it only had a limited capacity on that feed, it caused the power to fall again. HydroOne restored full power not long after.

Port Colborne Mayor John Maloney isn't concerned about the integrity of the city's infrastructure, saying to the best of his knowledge there has been substantial investment made in the city for it.

"It's certainly an annoyance for most people, but there's nothing anybody can do," he said. "They work very hard to restore [the power] as quickly as they can."

For residents who might be concerned about how their bills will be handled due to the outage, Courtney Bonito, supervisor of customer service with Canadian Niagara Power, said billing is based on consumption.

"When the power is out and there is no power, we're not recording consumption so there is no cost of power being utilized," she said.

Customers who'd have questions or concerns, however, are invited to call the customer service line at 905-835-0051.

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College students really on their game

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

It was a weekend of video game creation for students at Niagara College as they spent 48 hours in the computer labs for the Global Game Jam.

The jam is a worldwide event in which game developers get together at set locations to create something.

"In 48 hours they have to complete a game of some sort that fits the theme from scratch," said Alex Hicks, a graduate of the college's game development program who was volunteering for the event. "So they come in and they've previously used besides just their knowledge."

The students get a theme, which this year happened to be waves, and they work as a team or on their own to create

a game that uses an interpretation of that theme.

Program graduate Lyle Guay said he and his team were working on a game that dealt with waves of enemies and a weapon that shoots waves.

Second-year student Zachary Campbell and his team of three were creating what he described as an infinite runner sailboat game. It was the first time he and his group participated in the jam.

"It's going pretty rough, a little bit, but we're getting through it," he said.

As second-year students in the game development program, they hadn't yet learned all the nuances of putting everything together to make a functioning game, Campbell said. Classes have been mostly focused on individual aspects.

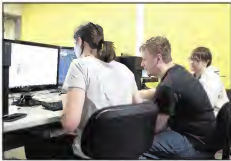
Seeing how everything comes together is a real learning experience for a team. He feels this crash course of sorts will help him with a similar project he must do for class.

"Before it would have taken me five to 10 hours, now it's going to take me two to three," he said.

In another computer lab the game developers had taken over for the weekend, some groups were working to create games using new eye-tracking technology.

Steven Gaudet, another second-year student in the program, and his team of nine kept it simple because they had never used the technology before.

"It's just a sorting game," he said of the game, which had a water background to don't use the theme. "But you can't use the keyboard or the



This team of three, made up of second-year Niagara College game development students Rebecca Cook, Zachary Campbell and Chelsea Poulin, are working hard to get their game done for this year's Global Game Jam.

mouse, you just have to look at the screen. The camera here just tracks where you're looking."

Gaudet said figuring out the technology only took a few hours because it comes with a lot of information and

software that are ready to use.

He picked the eye-tracking technology to make a game because more companies in the industry are picking it up. Even just using it for the game jam gives him that little extra edge of experience.

Hicks said the jam isn't so much a competition as a learning experience. Although all the games created will be uploaded to the Global Game Jam website for everyone to see and rate, there's no prize to be won.

"The website is just more, 'Hey, let's see how everybody did,'" he said.

Niagara College had 45 participants in this year's jam and was one of 90 participating sites worldwide.

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LOCAL NEWS

Election reform approved Region's thumb's up

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

Regional council has given St. Catharines the green light to move forward in its plan to change the way it elects its regional councillors.

"We have to move beyond the status quo," St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik said last Thursday night.

"If this is one small step then it is a step worth taking."

Regional council voted 17 to 11 to allow St. Catharines to go ahead and decide how it wants its regional representatives chosen. A negative vote would have killed the plan in its tracks.

The proposed model would see six of St. Catharines' 12 city councillors also sit on regional council. Each St. Catharines ward would have one coun-

cillor representing them at the city level and one councillor representing them at both the city and regional level. The new model would reduce the number of politicians in St. Catharines to 12 from 18.

"We have all these tools to communicate," Sendzik said. "But we need to connect with the residents at the front door. The ward system is the best moving forward."

St. Catharines asked the region in July 2015 to apply to the province for a change to its governance model.

St. Catharines received the OK from the province in June. The motion was then sent back to the region.

Last Thursday's vote was the first step on the road to "triple-majority" needed for the change. St. Catharines needs approval from regional council, as well as the majority of the region's 12 municipal councils.

St. Catharines Regional Coun. Brian Heit didn't sup-

port the idea. He thought having one politician serving on both councils will take too much time.

"What we will end up with is having all retirees here, or political hacks that want to be full-time politicians," he said.

Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop also didn't support the motion.

"I don't want six councillors here whose primary allegiance isn't to regional council," he said.

Two St. Catharines councillors are in favour of the idea. Tim Ribby said last Thursday's

vote was about regional council allowing St. Catharines to decide for itself how it wants to be governed.

St. Catharines Coun. Bruce Timms said he has long supported the idea of dual-direct councillors.

A resident doesn't care which level of government needs to fix the pothole, Timms said. He or she just wants it fixed.

"It will provide more accountable direct service to the constituents," he said.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said the dual-direct concept is from a bygone era

of politics. With modern technology and social media, the communications concerns dual direct addresses no longer exist.

"It's an idea that is out of date and undemocratic," he said.

Sendzik will open up the political process for people who are interested.

"It makes it more affordable at the ward system," Sendzik said. "When you are running as a (regional) councillor at large, it can cost \$30,000 to run or \$50,000 to run. In a ward,

you can get away with running for \$5,000 to \$10,000. It makes it more affordable for anyone who wants to run. It will allow them to play a central role in the ward and at the Region."

Sendzik said the current system is broken.

"It excludes people that work full-time during the day. (The new way) won't exclude people. It will include people. I am looking forward to that," he said.

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I've been thinking God is for us

GORD ABRAHAM

Port Colborne baptist church

As much as the media attempts to bring in good news stories whenever possible, we read, hear and see overwhelming amounts of bad news.

If it's not the warming and subsequent effects on climate and creation, it's violence, war, economic recession, joblessness, terrorism, and the list goes on.

Among many of the younger generations there is fear, uncertainty and growing discouragement as they look for job prospects, careers and a better world. All this in view as they try to navigate through it.

Also, we stand at a doorway looking out on the Canadian landscape, at our leaders, wondering if they are really listening and where they are really taking us and if they are actually dealing with the deep issues in our land?

From that same doorway, we look out on the world's landscape, under the shadow of a new American presidential administration that is so uncertain and unpredictable. My wife and I have come to the place where we try to regulate how much of all this we expose ourselves to because of the negative affects it can have on our daily thinking and perspective.

Can we find good news? Can we find a road-map to show us where we need to be going, or a person who can definitively give us answers to our questions and solve our deepest problems?

Let me bring you some good news and the first step to appropriating this.

God is for us and has laid out where we are, what He has planned, where we are going and how we can work in co-operation with him. As negative as things can be, God is for us and He promises hope if we trust Him.

God has created us and set into motion a plan to redeem us and restore the creation into His loving and gracious rule. This plan is not a sneer campaign against his alienated creatures, but rather a clean up campaign, through the death of His Son, the Lord, King Jesus Christ.

It states in the Gospel of John 3:16, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in (trusts) him will not perish but have eternal life."

His big plan includes the final restoration of both heaven and earth. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy, may your kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven," (Matthew 6:9-10).

The images of all God has in store for us are given in the last book of the Bible, Revelation 21:1-2, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new



PERRO PARDO/AF/GETTY IMAGES
A man reads the newspaper headlines in Mexico City on January 21, 2017, the day after the inauguration of new US President Donald Trump.

earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."

These images of the old being gone with new heavens and a new earth being reconstituted from the old is presented as a city coming down to the new earth. God's dimension (heaven) will again be reunited with the material world. He created minus all the affects of the sin of the past (death, pain, suffering, alienation etc.). God will make all things right and make all things new.

God will be reunited with His people on this newly created earth. In Christ Jesus, just as He originally planned at the beginning of the Creation (Gen 1-2), "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them." (Rev 21:3)

As part of this big plan God the Father paid the sins of all people on His Son, Jesus, and raised Jesus out of death. This was the start of all things becoming new. Ben Witherington said, "In the death of Jesus, sin was dealt its death blow."

Those who ask Jesus Christ to be their sin bearer and forgive are brought back into God's family. They become part of his gracious loving rule in this new creation this is how much God is for us.

What are we to do? We are told very clearly, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. 11 As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." (Romans 10:9-10). God is for us.

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Home prices, homelessness rising

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

As the cost of housing continues to increase across Niagara, the number of homeless people is also increasing.

YWCA executive director Elisabeth Zimmermann fears the problem is becoming a crisis.

"We have seen a tremendous increase in the need for service," said Zimmermann, who was at city council last week in Welland discussing the problem.

YWCA, which operates shelters in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines as well as transitional and supportive housing programs throughout Niagara, is the largest provider of emergency shelter for homeless women and their families in the region.

But along with emergency



Zimmermann

accommodations provided by other social service agencies, Zimmermann said the YWCA's accommodations "have been gridlocked since probably, I would say, the summer."

"We're starting to see that people are having a harder

time finding housing," she said.

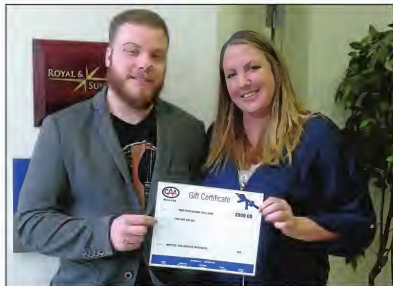
"We've seen an increase overall in the cost of rental units. We know that finding rental units is becoming increasingly difficult. The vacancy rates are steadily declining, as well as the costs are escalating."

She said property values have increased across the region, creating pressure on the rental market.

Niagara housing prices jumped by an average of 1.8 per cent last year, compared to about eight per cent in 2015. The least expensive rents in Niagara are currently about \$750 a month.

In comparison, a single person receives approximately \$650 a month in support payments.

Story continued on Page 6



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Cheap, decent housing rare sight

FROM PAGE 5

"It's becoming more and more unaffordable for people to stay housed," Zimmermann said. "If they're on Ontario Disability (Support Program), they have a little bit more of a chance because their income's a little bit higher. They're in around \$1,000 a month."

As a result, she said, people cannot afford "safe and decent housing."

"So what ends up happening is people, particularly with children, they can end up having to compromise their safety because they can't find housing that is affordable," she said.

"I'm concerned that we're reaching a crisis at this point, so that people are absolutely unable to find housing or they're really compromising themselves."

In some cases people are

It's becoming more and more unaffordable for people to stay housed. If they're on Ontario Disability (Support Program), they have a little bit more of a chance because their income's a little bit higher. They're in around \$1,000 a month."

Elisabeth Zimmermann

forced to live in hotels and motels that lack kitchen facilities.

"This is becoming people's housing ... and it's still not cheap. They're paying still \$650 to \$750 a month for a motel room. This doesn't have any kind of a kitchen. This is not living," Zimmermann said.

"When we look at people who are really living in the depths of poverty, when there are things happening in the community these are the individuals who are impacted the most."

Elisabeth Zimmermann
Twitter: @bamer1

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Welland welcome signs need improvement: John Chiochio

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

Welland's welcome signs aren't welcoming enough for Ward 3 Coun. John Chiochio.

He wants the city and Niagara Region to take a look at the condition of the signs and address conflicting information on some of them.

For instance, he told city councillors last Tuesday that one sign on Webber Road "looks like it was hit by a car" and just set back up on the side of the road at a 45-degree angle.

That sign says the city's population is 50,300.

Another sign on Prince Charles Drive says Welland's population is 51,000.

Two other signs, on East Main Street and elsewhere on Prince Charles Drive, both say the city's population is 50,631 — which is correct, based on the 2011 census data.

He said the signs are also in poor condition.

"When you drive up to them, they're an eyesore," he said.

Other signs, he added, look like "antiques that you could sell on eBay."

Chiochio said he'd like to see some of the outdated and deteriorated signs removed entirely, and other signs installed with up-to-date population data based on the 2016 census.

"I'm asking city staff to review that with the Region, to get the correct numbers," he said.

Ward 1 Coun. Leo Van Vliet said he'd also like to see solar-powered LED lights added to the signs.

"The sign on Woodlawn Road, while it's a gorgeous sign that sits there on the island, you can't see it at night," he said, referring to a gateway sign installed in 2007 by the North Welland Business Improvement Area.

There is no electrical service near the sign that incorporates a representation of a bridge into its design, but Van Vliet said solar panel and LED lighting could be used to shed some light on that sign.

"I see no reason why we couldn't go in that direction," he said.

Ward 3 Coun. John Mastrolanni suggested getting a cost estimate for sign replacements, and considering it as part of the 2018 budget.



John Chiochio

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

INTERNATIONAL BUDDY HOLLY SHOW COMES TO THE ROSELAWN THEATRE

The incredible Jeff Giles stars in "Buddy Holly's Rockin' Valentine's Party" when it comes to Port Colborne for a special Valentine's matinee show on Sunday February 12th



A touch of Broadway is coming to Port Colborne when "Buddy Holly's Rockin' Valentine's Party" headlines at the Roselawn Theatre on Sunday February 12th for a special 3pm matinee show. This incredible performance features the amazing talents of international touring artist Jeff Giles, best known for his starring role in "The Buddy Holly Story", the official musical show of the legendary Rock & Roll pioneer who died in a tragic plane crash on February 3, 1959. In Canada, Jeff Giles has starred as Buddy in Charlottetown PEI, where he was also featured on CBC television, and in Hamilton, where the show sold-out the prestigious Theatre Aquarius for a month. Of his performance there, the Hamilton Spectator described Jeff Giles as "the sexiest Buddy Holly ever".

Songs performed by Jeff Giles include Buddy's biggest hits like "Peggy Sue", "That'll Be the Day", "Rave On", "It's So Easy", "Everyday", "Oh Boy!", "Not Fade Away" and "True Love Ways" amongst the many audience favourites.

Tickets to see this incredible show at the Roselawn Theatre on Sunday February 12th at 3pm are on sale now, value priced at \$35 all inclusive and can be purchased at the theatre box office located at 296 Fielden Avenue in Port Colborne or by calling 905-834-7572. Get your tickets early for the best seats to this Rockin' Dance Party!

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LOCAL NEWS

Young and living with Alzheimer's

CHERYL CLOCK
Postmedia Network

Earl Warren could fix anything. A machinist for more than 30 years at General Motors, he took pride in his do-it-yourself projects. If someone needed something fixed, Earl could do it.

He built a wood deck around his backyard pool. He gutted part of his basement and renovated with new wiring, drywall and tile. He installed all the plumbing for a bathroom, including shower and toilet.

He's installed wood flooring. He's painted walls. Built wood fences.

He's a guy who could tear down interior walls, and put a room back together again.

Better.

The other day, the toilet broke and he couldn't remember how to fix it.

For the life of him, Earl could not reason through the simple steps required to stop the water running in the tank.

This is young onset Alzheimer's disease.

Earl is 56 years old. He was diagnosed at 53, although Alzheimer's probably crept into his life several years before that.

Earl and his wife Jori Warren, 56, cried when he was given the news.

"It was a death sentence to me," he says. "It really was. I'm young. I still have my kids."

"I wanted to have time with my family. That was my biggest thing. I don't want to die

too early and not see my kids grow up."

The couple has three adult children, and two grandsons.

They had just bought a truck and trailer, and planned to drive across Canada when they retired. Alzheimer's stole their dreams. Earl has since had his driver's licence revoked. The trailer is in storage. And the couple does not plan too far ahead.

Jori, who was also a machinist at GM, retired last year to be able to care for Earl. And Earl is on sick benefits.

"You don't dream anymore," says Jori. "Your life, it's not that it's stopped, but you can't plan. You live very close to this time."

Story continued on Page 18

ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF NIAGARA REGION

For more information about dementia or local programs and events, visit www.alzheimer.ca/niagara or call 905-687-3914.

Young Onset Dementia

Dementia that begins before age 65 is called young onset dementia. Many people in their 40s and 50s may:

- Be working at the time of diagnosis.
- Have children or parents living at home.
- Have significant financial commitments (mortgage, children in university, etc.)
- Be physically fit.
- Be more aware of their symptoms.
- Find it hard to accept losing skills.

Find it difficult to get information, support and services adapted to younger people with dementia.

Walk for Alzheimer's

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Record college enrolment fuels need for buses

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

After weeks of packed buses transporting students to Niagara College's campuses, the school's student administrative council believes it has resolved problems — for now.

"We know there was definitely an issue," said Steve Kosh, the council's executive director.

Although there were a few complaints about over-crowded buses in Welland after the college experienced record numbers of students enrolling for the winter term, Kosh said the problem was primarily with buses carrying students from Niagara Falls to college campuses in both Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

While college enrolment is up by about 400 students in the winter term, Kosh said the college also expe-

rienced an increase among international students.

"And quite a big population of those students live in Niagara Falls, which does amplify the issue," Kosh said.

He said the student council worked with the college and Niagara Falls Transit to add two additional buses, with the capacity for an additional 120 students in the morning.

In addition, extra buses were added in the afternoons to bring students back to Niagara Falls every half-hour. Buses previously were only offered on an hourly basis.

The new buses started running last Thursday morning, and Kosh was at the Welland campus at 6:50 a.m. with student council president Alicemary Nakwela to talk to students and make sure the improvements were working.

While the usual buses continued

to be packed with students, Kosh said the newly added buses were about 85 per cent full, too.

"We put the word out there and (students) are already riding the buses," Kosh said.

Although the Niagara Falls buses were a priority, Welland Transit manager Alfred Stockwell said buses that run between the Welland and NOTL campuses, as well as buses heading to Brock University, have been extremely busy.

However, he said ridership on those buses normally starts to drop off within a few days of the start of the winter term.

Stockwell said Welland Transit staff will be meeting with the college's student council representatives this week to see if the problem is continuing and if the college needs additional services from Welland Transit.

Kosh described the extra buses from Niagara Falls as "definitely a Band-Aid solution."

"There needs to be a longer-term solution for transit in Niagara," he said, referring to plans being developed

by Niagara Region for an integrated regional transit service.

ABenner@postmedia.com
Twitter: @bennerm



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A bus awaits students from Niagara College, to transport them to Niagara Falls. The college's student administrative council has had to add additional bus services to meet the demand.

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LOCAL NEWS

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Gaming business thrives for Falls man

RAY SPITENI
Port Media Network

It hasn't been around for as long as model railroad, but table-top war gaming has found its own place among hobbyists.

"It's model trains of the future," says Dan Baty, owner of Max Aggression Gaming in Niagara Falls.

Baty has a storefront on McLeod Road, where he sells table-top war game prod-

ucts from companies such as Games Workshop, Warlord Games, Fantasy Flight Games and Wizards of the Coast.

Games allow players to conduct battles on a table top using figures depicting characters, including soldiers, warriors and monsters. Dice are rolled and figures are moved accordingly by inches, instead of squares, to resolve battles.

But what makes Baty's shop particularly interesting is that he not only sells the games,

he's also a player and assembles, custom paints and sells the figures that are used in the games.

The Niagara Falls resident started his business in 2014, painting miniature figures and armies and selling them online.

Most figures range in size from about half an inch to 10 inches tall.

He assembles them from dry plastic pieces that come inside a modelling kit.

"You glue them together, you prime them, then you paint them, and then you can play games with your friends," he says.

"I never really do one (figure) at a time, I do a whole bunch. But one model, depending on the size, could take you a week."

It's also good business, says Baty.

See GAMES, Page 16

NOTICE OF COMPLETION SITE SERVING OF THE EAST SIDE EMPLOYMENT LANDS CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY CITY OF PORT COLBORNE



THE STUDY

To allow for future industrial park development, the City of Port Colborne, has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for site serving of the East Side Employment Lands (ESEL) Phase 1 area (see map). The ESEL form part of Niagara Region's Niagara Gateway Economic Zone and Centre, which was first identified in the Provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The ESEL have been identified by the City as a priority for investment to enable and support development of these lands. Key components of the EA Study include the provision of municipal water and sanitary sewer systems, stormwater management, and road network improvements.

THE PROCESS

The EA Study is being completed in accordance with the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, and followed Approach #2 Master Planning Process of the Municipal Engineers Association. The review of alternatives and improvements has identified the preferred municipal servicing strategy to include a new pump station on the west side of Ramsey Road (see map); a new watermain; a new sanitary sewer and road improvements at the intersection of Third Concession Road and Highway 140.

MASTER PLAN PROJECT FILE REPORT

A Master Plan Project File Report documenting the planning and decision making process has been prepared and is available for review for 30 calendar days beginning January 19, 2017 and ending February 17, 2017 at the following locations, during regular business hours.

City of Port Colborne
City's Department
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8

Port Colborne Public Library
300 King Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 4H1



The Master Plan Project File Report can also be viewed on the City's website: http://portcolborne.ca/page/Current_Studies. Please provide written comments to Jim Hupponen, at the address below within the 30 day public review period. If concerns cannot be resolved, you may request that the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change make an order for the project to comply with Part 8 of the Environmental Assessment Act, which addresses individual environmental assessments. The Minister must receive requests for Part I Orders at the address below by 4:30pm on February 17, 2017. If no request is received by February 17, 2017, the project will proceed to design as presented in the Master Plan Project File Report.

The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change
77 Wesley St. West, 13th Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, ON M7A 2T5.

Mr. Jim Hupponen, A.S.T.
Manager of Engineering Services
City of Port Colborne
66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario, L3K 3C8
seel@portcolborne.ca
Tel: (905) 635-2900 ext. 221
Fax: (905) 635-2909

Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Environmental Assessment Act, unless otherwise stated in the submission, any personal information such as name, address, telephone number and property location included in a submission will become part of the public record files for this matter and may be released, if requested, to any person.

This notice was first issued on January 19, 2017
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MIKE DINIATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Dan Baty, owner of Max Aggression Gaming in Niagara Falls, with one of his painted table-top war gaming figures.

Creative gaming captivates all ages

FROM PAGE 14

"I sold a whole army for \$2,000," he says, adding he sells products to people around the world.

Baty says while it can be time consuming, it's not difficult to assemble and paint the figures, as there are instructions and videos that can be found online.

However, he says he has had success selling figures because of his own unique style of painting.

"You can paint them like you see on the box, but I do my own versions. I pick a random colour that has nothing to do with the stories and I just do it all up and people pay more for a unique scheme."

Baty says there's a big market for

these games, as well as the artistic side of assembling and painting the figures.

He says some of the games are "pretty advanced" and require players to do "a lot of reading" to understand the rules.

"I teach people how to paint. We'll also do (gaming) tournaments. We do them everywhere, really."

Baty says it's not just young people who enjoy the games and the related accessories. Gamers can range in age from 15 to 60.

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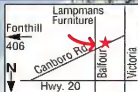
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LOCAL NEWS

Developing tools to support loved ones with Alzheimer's

FROM PAGE 9

This month, Jori and Earl, along with Teena Kindt, chief executive officer of Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region, will be speaking to local MPPs about issues faced by people living with dementia.

The Ontario government is in the process of developing a dementia strategy, and the pro-

vincial Alzheimer society has itemized a list of suggestions to improve support for people living with dementia and their caregivers. The cost is estimated at \$100,000 over two years.

Components to the strategy include: Creating dementia-friendly communities to allow people to live in the community, volunteer, have pur-

pose and use services longer; Improving primary care to enable early detection, diagnosis and treatment; Alzheimer-specific training for health-care workers at all points where a person with dementia might enter the system; and improving collaboration in research.

In Niagara, a pressing issue is improving respite care, to give families more hours, and to make respite more flexible and tailored to a family's individual needs, in order to reduce caregiver burnout, says Kindt.

Currently, respite hours are limited, either for day programs, overnight beds, or in-house care, she says. And the criteria for receiving certain types of respite often excludes people with dementia who have challenging behaviours, such as agitation, wandering or depression.

"And yet, those are the care partners who need it the most," she says.

Each year, 25,000 Canadians are diagnosed with dementia.

There are roughly 9,850 people living with dementia in Niagara, and 564,000 people in Canada — 16,000 are younger than 65. Dementia that begins before 65, is called young onset dementia. Many people are in their 40s and 50s, and may be working at the time they're diagnosed, have children living



CHEERY, GLOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Earl Warren, 56, of St. Catharines lives with young onset Alzheimer's disease, being diagnosed at age 53. Earl and his wife, Jori, had plans on travelling across Canada when they retired from General Motors, but these days they don't plan too far ahead. They will be working with the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region to talk with local MPPs about funding needed for a provincial Alzheimer's strategy.

at home, have significant financial obligations such as paying a mortgage or children in university, and have difficulty accepting the loss of skills.

"It just picks at you, a little bit at a time," says Earl. "A little bit at a time. It just goes."

"Every day, it's something else."

When Earl goes on walks, he follows the Welland Canal trail, near his home. Otherwise, he could get disoriented and lost in his own subdivision.

Simple tasks take an exhausting amount of energy. In the morning, he will stand in the bathroom, and scan the room for reminders of what he needs to do to get ready for the day. Like a bath towel, it's forgotten in his mind. He will think, deliberately, I have to get my toothbrush, I have to put on toothpaste, I have to gargle. Where is the mouthwash? He might look through several cupboards, before finding the mouthwash,

even though it's in the same spot all the time.

"I don't have any routines anymore," he says.

Adds Jori: "We're in a constant state of grief."

"It just seems that you lose, and you lose, and you lose."

And yet, Earl still finds joy. He's always been a guy who can laugh at life. And despite the numerous losses, he has purpose.

The couple's church, Tintern Church of Christ, has sponsored a Syrian refugee family. Both Jori and Earl help the family with daily needs, a healthy distraction from their own life challenges.

Earl is also part of an advisory committee with the Niagara Alzheimer society. He offers input on a variety of issues, along with other people living with dementia.

It's about having the courage to live with purpose. To let go of what he can't change, he says.

"It's the time that I have so I'm going to use that time. And I'm going to use it productively," says Earl.

"What else are you going to do? I could sit here and cry all day long, every day. What's that going to do?"

"I'd just rather enjoy what time I have."

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- 1 Cash/Cheque**
- 2 Rental available on your Enbridge Gas Bill**
- 3 Financing available on your Enbridge Gas Bill**

Multiple Fiance Options to Suit Everyone

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

NO INTEREST, NO PAYMENTS, 12 MONTHS O.A.C*

**Finance options subject to dealer charge.